



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the young men and women who are enrolled today in the high schools of Louisiana are the leaders of tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS,** the vast majority of these young men and women are honorable, law-abiding, contributing members of their families, schools, churches, and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Optimist International, a civic organization with affiliated local clubs throughout the state of Louisiana as well as across the country, annually sets aside a week in November to:

- Recognize the accomplishments of youth in the home, school, church, and community; and
- Promote more participation by all family members in activities involving the family as a unit; and
- Encourage parents to rededicate themselves to their responsibilities of parenthood; and
- Encourage organizations and other groups to publicly show their respect for youth; and
- Encourage the news media to recognize the accomplishments of youth through regular and special features; and
- Provide the proper environment for youth, including opportunities for participation in recreational and social activities; and
- Focus attention on the influence that religion and morals have on the lives of youth, and encourage youths to participate regularly in spiritual activities; and
- Encourage a greater interchange of ideas between adults and youth, leading to a broader understanding of each others' problems.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the week of November 15-21, 2004, as

### YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK

in the state of Louisiana, and urge Louisianians in all walks of life to join with their local Optimist Club in recognizing the valuable contributions of youth in the homes, schools, churches, and communities of Louisiana.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 17th day of November  
A.D., 2004.*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Governor of Louisiana



*Attest By  
The Governor*

*Joseph Keithen*  
Secretary of State